

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data communication architecture including a plurality of devices having input/output (I/O) ports supporting communication at a first rate and a data  
5 processor having a number of I/O ports where each I/O port supports data communication at a second data rate. The second data rate is at least double the first data rate. A communication link coupled to one of the data processor I/O ports supports the second data rate. A  
10 bridge device is coupled to the communication link and to the I/O ports of the plurality of devices. The bridge device translates the communication link at the second data rate to a plurality of communication links at the first data rate, where the plurality of communication  
15 links at the first data rate are substantially independent of each other.